

A NEW SPECIES OF CLERADINI
(HEMIPTERA: LYGAEIDAE: RHYPAROCHROMINAE) FROM
THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND GHANA

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Abstract.—*Navarrus ater*, a new Ethiopian species, is described in a formerly monotypic genus known only from the Oriental Region and New Guinea. Characters are presented to distinguish *N. ater* from *N. phaeophilus*, the type species of the genus. A dorsal view drawing of the holotype of *N. ater* is provided.

Members of the little-known hemipteran tribe Cleradini are nest inquilines found principally in the nests of rodents where they feed on vertebrate blood. In such a specialized habitat these insects are not commonly collected. Indeed, some species are known only from the limited material of the original description. A majority of the genera in this tribe are currently monotypic.

The cleradine genus *Navarrus* was described by Distant in 1901, with *Rhyparochromus phaeophilus* Walker, 1872 as the type species. To date *Navarrus* has remained monotypic, with *N. phaeophilus* known to occur broadly in the Oriental Region and in New Guinea. The present paper extends the distribution of *Navarrus* into the Ethiopian Region by describing *N. ater*, a new species from the Central African Republic and Ghana. In the following description all measurements are in mm and the Villalobos color chart (Palmer, 1962) has been used as a standard.

***Navarrus ater*, new species**

Virtually entire body surface dark blackish brown; scutellum subtly darker, almost true black; tarsi, lateral pronotal carina and lateral hemelytral carina appearing lighter, between blackish brown and sepia; subproximal one-third antennal segment IV dark tawny, segment IV dark on distal two-thirds and in very narrow band at proximal end.

Body subshining save for dull granular evaporative area surrounding metathoracic scent gland auricle and adjacent strip along posterior margin mesopleuron. Pronotum, scutellum, clavus, and corium evenly covered with

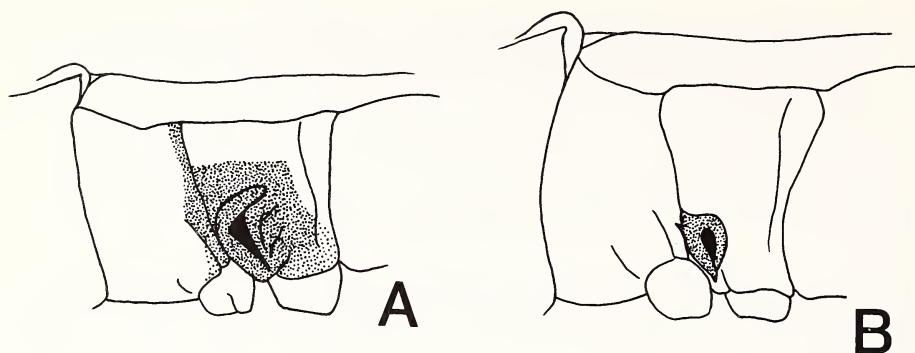


Fig. 1. Metathoracic scent gland auricles and evaporative areas of: (A) *Navarrus ater* and (B) *N. phaeophilus*.

small shallow punctures; punctures larger and deeper on head and lateroventral aspects of pro- and mesothorax; abdomen impunctate, marked lateroventrally on sterna II and III (first two visible) with large finely textured areas representing a diffuse stridulitrum. Abdomen sparsely clothed with slender recumbent posteriorly directed hairs; similar distally directed hairs on legs and antennae; head including eyes with short anteriorly directed hairs, some stout and bristle-like; each puncture on pronotum, scutellum and hemelytra containing a very short minute scale-like hair.

Head very short and broad, slightly declivent from flat vertex; tylus narrow, appearing markedly so with antenniferous tubercles short to non-existent; eyes large, seeming to rest on anterior pronotal angles; postocular distance negligible; ocelli at posterior margin of head; length head 0.56; width 0.90; interocular distance 0.46. Pronotum shield-like, not noticeably bilobed, declivent from posterior margin; transverse impression obsolete; no collar apparent on anterior lobe; a broad continuous lateral carina running from anterior angle to just short of posterior margin; humeral angle elevated and knob-like, extending posteriorly a short but distinct distance beyond lateral carina; posterior pronotal margin straight across base of scutellum; length pronotum 1.00; width posterior margin across humeral angles 1.64; greatest width including carinae 1.78. Length scutellum 0.90; width 0.94. Hemelytron vaguely sinuate laterally, with a broad lateral carina; length corium 2.58; distance apex corium to apex membrane 0.34; length claval commissure 0.50; distance apex clavus to apex corium 1.16. Labium extending between mesocoxae; length labial segments I 0.30, II 0.26, III 0.82, IV 0.26; bucculae long extending most of head length, with a broad U-shaped juncture at level of proximal one-third labial segment II. Antennae with segments relatively stout; length antennal segments I 0.24, II 0.40, III 0.26, IV 0.68. Fore femur slightly incrassate, armed on anterior edge of ventral surface with three very

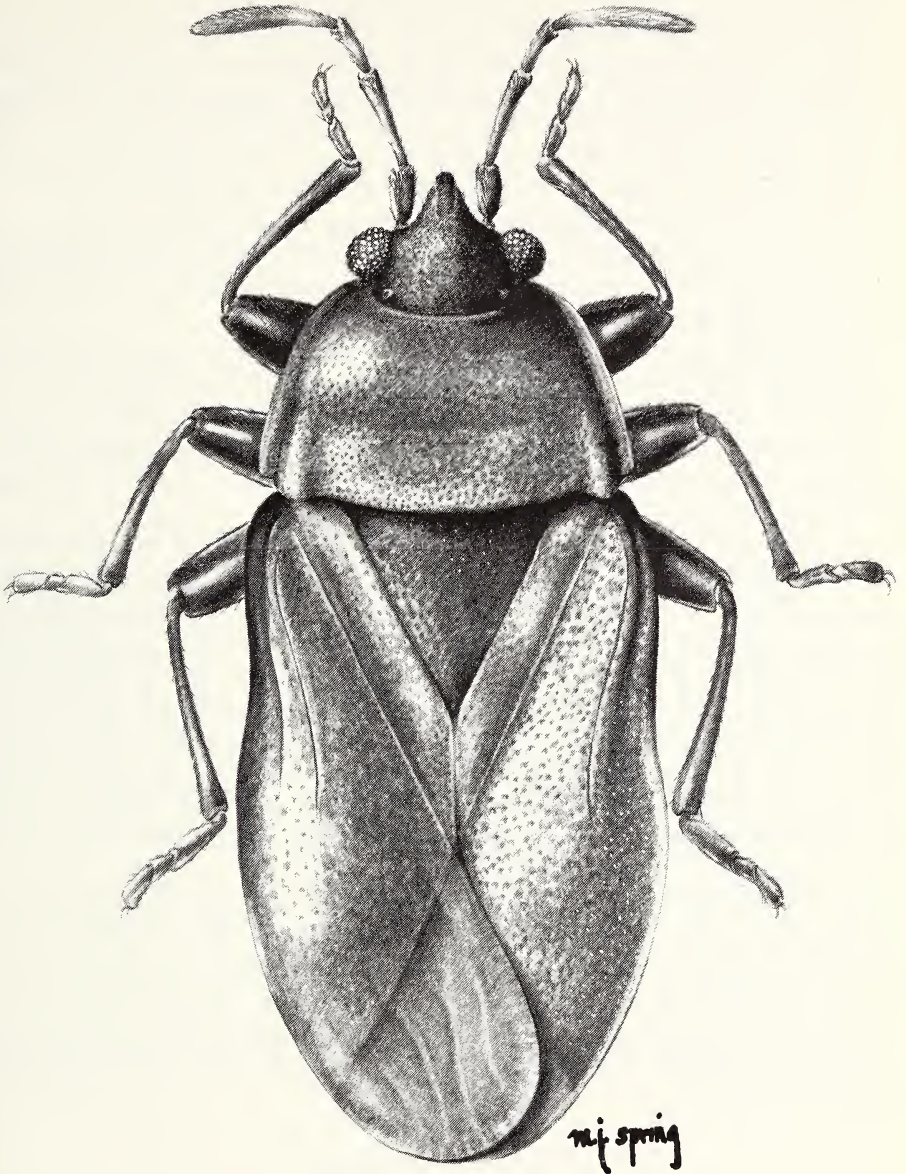


Fig. 2. *Navarrus ater*, new species. Holotype, dorsal view.

minute broad spines each with a stout apical bristle; meso- and metafemora also relatively swollen; metafemur with several fine denticles on posterior surface aligned to strike textured areas on abdomen, these two surfaces probably constituting a stridulatory apparatus. Metathoracic scent gland auricle large elongate crescent-shaped and arched posteriorly (Fig. 1a). Total length 4.44.

Holotype. ♀, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: La Maboke 6-9.VI.1973 (Linnavouri). In American Museum of Natural History, New York.

Paratypes. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Same data as holotype, 1♀. GHANA: Tafo 10.X.1967 (UV trap) (D. Leston), 1♀. In J. A. Slater and B. J. Harrington collections.

The paratype from Ghana is somewhat lighter (more toward chestnut) than the holotype and paratype from the Central African Republic.

N. ater and *N. phaeophilus* have a very similar general habitus with a broad ovoid body shape, a distinct shelf-like and reflexed lateral pronotal carina, an obsolete pronotal transverse impression, and a broad short head that is not prolonged at all in the postocular region.

N. ater can be easily distinguished from *N. phaeophilus* by its uniform dark coloration. *N. phaeophilus* is lighter with the ground color ranging between chestnut and tawny. In *N. phaeophilus* the hemelytral membrane is largely fuscous but proximally marked at the midline with a distinct light colored macula contiguous to the claval commissure. *N. phaeophilus* also has a small rounded scent gland auricle with the evaporative area confined to the auricle itself (Fig. 1b) in contrast to the large crescent-shaped auricle of *N. ater* which is surrounded by a broad evaporative area that extends onto the posterior margin of the mesopleuron (Fig. 1a). Additionally, *N. ater* apparently has a stridulatory apparatus while there is no evidence of one in *N. phaeophilus*.

Such striking morphological differences might suggest separate generic status for *N. ater*. However, without male specimens for examination and pending a comprehensive generic-level reevaluation of the tribe Cleradini that will shed more light on whether the features shared by *N. ater* and *N. phaeophilus* represent synapomorphies or symplesiomorphies, it seems preferable to be conservative and describe this new species as a member of the genus *Navarrus*.

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